

Questions & Answers
Solar Works DC (RFA 2017-1712)
<https://doee.dc.gov/node/1208277>

1. Who is eligible to apply for the Solar Works DC grant?

Private enterprises, nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations, faith-based organizations, government agencies and universities/educational institutions can apply for the Solar Works DC grant. Because the Notice of Funding Availability *incorrectly* prohibited faith-based organizations from applying, DOEE is extending the application deadline until Friday, February 27 at 4:30pm.

2. How many grants will be awarded?

On page 21 of the RFA, in Section 7.2 - Available Funding, it is stated that: "DOEE expects to make an award to a single grantee for the funding amount available."

3. Will the grantee receive only \$950,000 for training and installation of the solar panels? Will grantees have to: pay a livable/minimum wage for 45-75 students while training them, find rooftops for PV installation, purchase PV panels, and complete installation all for less than one million dollars?

Up to \$950,000 is available per year to achieve the deliverables listed in the grant. The DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) will pay a stipend directly to the program participants for up to 20 hours for non-summer participants, and up to 30 hours for summer participants enrolled in the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP). Living and minimum wages are not required, however, prospective grantees are allowed to supplement training participants' stipends as they deem necessary to meet the grant objectives.

4. What are allowable costs?

See section 7, page 24 of the RFA, for allowable costs.

5. Will you give the grantee rooftops? If not, is the grantee supposed to find the rooftops? What exactly do you mean by 60-100 District edifices? Define roof/edifice.

No, DOEE will not provide the grantee with rooftops. The grantee is responsible for identifying rooftops for PV installations. DOEE will share a short list of 30 homeowners that have expressed interest in installations with the grantee. For the purposes of this grant, one edifice equals the rooftop of one home or building.

6. Will you give the grantee a space to conduct training?

No, DOEE will not identify and secure the space to conduct trainings.

7. How many watts should be produced by the installations?

There is no minimum watt requirement.

8. When will responses to the questions from the public information session and the revised RFA be available?

The responses to questions posed at the public information session will be available on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

9. Is there a requirement that the equipment used for the installation specially the Solar PV panels are going to be mandated to “Made in USA”?

No, there is not an equipment sourcing mandate for this RFA.

10. Is registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) with the federal government needed?

No, applicants do not need to be registered in SAM as no federal funding is tied to this grant.

11. Is there a percentage of the 60-100 installs that is required to be completed in within a cohort?

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

12. Do 60-100 installs have to be completed by Sept 30th? Can they roll over or do they have to be completed each year?

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

13. Do multi-family residences and commercial properties count as one rooftop/ install?

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

14. Do both trainings and installations have to take place in the District?

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

15. Do program trainees need to complete installs?

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

16. What are some of the allowable costs for this grant?

Refer to the RFA for “Program Costs.”

- 17. On page 24 of the RFA under “Program Costs,” it states that DOES will pay stipends of \$8.25 per hour, up to 20 hrs per week for non-summer participants. How many weeks are allowable, and are there a maximum amount of hours that DOES would cover at \$8.25? How many total hours do we have budgeted within a year for \$8.25 an hour?**

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

- 18. In your application will grantees who propose to install more systems closer to 100 vs closer to 60 receive preference?**

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

- 19. For the \$950,000 allotted, how many awardees will there be?**

Refer to page 21 of the RFA – “DOEE expects to make an award to single grantee for the funding amount available.”

- 20. Is there an expectation that training outside of PV system installation needs to be a part of the curriculum? Are we primarily conducting installation training, or related training as well?**

Refer to page 22, 4b of the RFA. We understand there is more to the business of solar than just installing solar systems on roofs. DOEE recommends a comprehensive training curriculum.

- 21. On page 15 of the RFA under “Required Documents,” how current do the Certificates of Good Standing have to be?**

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

- 22. Will DOES/DOEE be covering workman’s compensation?**

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

- 23. Can the application be submitted via email?**

Refer to page 8 of the RFA. “Each applicant must submit fiver paper copies and one electronic copy.”

- 24. Page 4, section 1.2 of the RFA – “Low income single family homes, multifamily buildings, and nonprofit owned buildings.” Would churches be considered?**

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

- 25. For the scoring criteria, is there any special preference for Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs)?**

No, there is no preference for CBEs for this grant.

- 26. On page 17, section 4.2, there is a discrepancy for the explanation of the scoring criteria that does not match the criteria outlined on page 25 of the RFA. The points awarded for District-based applicants, is it 10 or 5?**

See revised RFA to be released on Friday, January 27. The terms of the updated RFA control.

- 27. Can you please confirm that 15 double-spaced pages is the required length of the proposal for submission?**

Refer to page 10 under "Format." DOEE requires no more than 15 pages for the grantee's project description. Cover letter, budget, resumes, etc. are considered attachments, in addition to the 15 pages.

- 28. Of the \$950,000, what are allowable costs?**

Refer to the RFA for "Program Costs."

- 29. Do applicants have to be based in the District?**

No.

Information Session Attendees

In-Person Attendees:

1. Reyna Askew, GRID Alternatives, raskew@gridalternatives.org
2. Sienna Arku, GRID Alternatives, sarku@gridalternatives.org
3. Lilia Abron, Peer Consulting, abronl@peerpc.com
4. Kevin Doyle, SMART, kdoyle@trinityca.com
5. Antonio Harrison, Greenscape Environmental, aharrison@greenscapeenvironmental.com
6. Teria Drayton, Greenscape Environmental, tdrayton@greenscapeenvironmental.com
7. Candace Lyles, WDC Solar, gogreen@wdcsolar.com
8. Catherine Hogan, Greater Washington Urban League, chogan@gwul.org
9. Jamie Donovan, Dept of General Services, Jamie.donovan@dc.gov
10. Sumit Bhatnager, Green Brilliance, Sumit.bhatnagar@greenbrilliance.com
11. Warner Session, Session Law Firm, whs@warnersessions.com

Conference Line Attendees:

1. Veronica Jenkins, Homes for Hope, VeronicaJenkins@msn.com
2. Nicole Steele, GRID Alternatives, nsteele@gridalternatives.org

3. Anthony Chuukwu, Citiwide Vocational Center, info@mycitiwide.com
4. Adam Jibril, Department of Employment Services, Jibril.Adam@dc.gov
5. Mr. Gordon, United Planning Organization (no email found)